

9.04
344
#46
E.S.O.# 344

May, 1976

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN AERS DEPARTMENTS -

A NATIONAL SURVEY REPORT

compiled by

John T. Whinnery

Material in this report appears as provided by those institutions responding to a request concerning information methods used and activities underway. The groupings were arranged by the compiler.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN AERS DEPARTMENTS

CATEGORIES	I. INFO. SYSTEM AND SPECIALIST STAFFING	II. SOME AUTOMATED FUNCTIONS	III. REFERENCE/LIB. ACTIVITY ONLY	IV. NO SYSTEM
STATES	CALIFORNIA	DELAWARE	ARIZONA	ALABAMA
	COLORADO	FLORIDA	HAWAII	ARKANSAS
	ILLINOIS	KANSAS	IDAHO	GEORGIA
	INDIANA	NEW YORK	KENTUCKY	LOUISIANA
	MINNESOTA	N. CAROLINA	MAINE	MISSISSIPPI
	NORTH DAKOTA	OKLAHOMA	MARYLAND	TEXAS
	OHIO	OREGON	MASSACHUSETTS	UTAH
	VERMONT	PENNSYLVANIA	MICHIGAN	
		VIRGINIA	MISSOURI	
		WEST VIRGINIA	MONTANA	
			NEW JERSEY	
			WYOMING	
PERCENT OF RESPONSES	22%	27%	32%	19%

(74% of all states responded)

"INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN AERS DEPARTMENTS - A NATIONAL SURVEY REPORT"

CATEGORY I. Departments with Information systems and specialist staffing:

- CALIFORNIA: J. T. Nishimoto, Supervisor, Agr. Econ. Data Service*: Dept. has Agr. data base computerized, 1949 to 1974 time series data; on "Interactive California Agriculture Projections System"; with projection parameters for population, per capita consumption, p.m. income, exports and imports, yields and acreage requirements for years 1980 to 2020.
- COLORADO: (CSU); Warren Trock, Director, County Information Service; nonautomated county level data in notebook form; all secondary series; subscription basis; with updating service; multidisciplinary inputs from wide variety of sources; staff incl. Dir., Admin Asst., two work study students; going to put all county sets on microfiche for library use statewide.
- ILLINOIS: (U of I-Urbana); J. Van Es, Rural Sociologist; ISIERD system of computerized data series now discontinued; research oriented
- INDIANA: (Purdue); Robert Rades, Agr. Economist; some computer-accessed data series; Extension area main thrust; Farm Mgmt simulators with daily and hourly inputs of data; CRD-Industrial Devel. impact model, tax advantage model; school district data and teacher info. base; local govt. financial data base; all at county and smaller unit level; from Indiana University - socioeconomic data set for county and larger units, with census, price indices, economic forecasting models, etc. consolidated storage on Agr. College Mini-computer of all college information series; plans for terminals in all 92 counties w/in 5 years, these having stand-alone capabilities of disc storage, printing, data entry and very high speed data transfer to central message switching.
- MINNESOTA: (U. Of M.) John Hoyt, Program Director, Computer Information Systems; Minnesota Analysis and Planning System (MAPS) was designed as data facility for the Minn. C Ext. Serv. oriented to Extension service users originally; now serves as central repository and information system for most units of state government; provides computer-based storage system of socioeconomic data for each county and regional development system in the state; originated in Dept. Agr. & Applied Economics but now independent unit.
- NORTH DAKOTA: (N.D.S.U.); J. E. Johnson, Agr. Economist: Project Coordinator for Agr. Expmt. station RIMS (Resource Inventory Information Management, and Monitoring System) Project; Data bank of socioeconomic and natural resource information; researcher oriented; uses LANDSAT data and IBM's data management program; have systems analyst on project also.
- VERMONT: (U. of V.) F. E. Schmidt, Rural sociologist: Secty. NE-89 Reg. Res. Proj.; no full time staff; constructing statewide community data bank; storage and analysis of socioeconomic data for counties and below; unique in that local records are available back into the 18th century.

* State; Institution; Respondent; Position; and comments

CATEGORY II: Departments with some automated activities underway.

- DELAWARE: (U. of D.) R. C. Smith, Agr. Economist; no departmental data system; at college level, have keypunch, 2 interactive terminals for faculty and student use; no plans for dept'l. info system.
- FLORIDA: (U. of F.) R. W. Ward; Food and Resource Economist; no departmental systems; uses U. of F. library services data system for research and Institute for food and Agr. Services (IFAS) Center for Rural Development socioeconomic data series (nonautomated); also has remote computer access to such computerized citrus data from State Department of Citrus.
- KANSAS: (K.S.U.); F. W. Schruben, Agr. Economist: no departmental online retrieval system; do have data bank on grain transportation rates for state.
- NEW YORK: (Cornell) R. N. Boisvert, Agr. Economist: Agr. Econ. department has no Information system; Rural Sociology Department (Prof. Joe Francis) has extensive computer files of census data, construction permits, and public use sample tape data; Community Development area has human resources data bulletins on each county in state available at \$1.00 each; primary use in research; also a pilot local government program using MCD level data with projection programs and PPBS programs.
- NORTH CAROLINA: (NCSU-Raleigh): W. D. Toussaint, Head, Dept. Econ. and Business: University computation center has automated index by subject matter, and used, for all computerized data series. Index has information on content and form of data.
- OKLAHOMA: (O. SU.) J. Plaxico, Head, Dept. Agr. Econ: Dept. has two remote interactive terminals; a high speed batch terminal (9600 baud, 600 cards or 600 lines per min.); and has 10 CRT terminals on order. ERS established an enterprise budget system at OSU in '74 utilizing the Oklahoma budget generator system.
- OREGON: (OSU) L. Eisgruber, Head, Agr. and Resource Econ. Dept. and K. D. Patterson, Chmn. Dept. of Economics: no socioeconomic information in departments; Dept. of Economics planning socioeconomic information system with state fiscal data, foreign trade, and other series not specified.
- PENNSYLVANIA: (Penn State); N. B. Gingrich, AERS faculty; no system in department; dept. does publish state industrial census and other socioeconomic data annually; Penn State Computation Center has extensive computerized data bases with very broad sources of series, 48 descriptor entries and index to other sources; designed after a data base directory developed at STANFORD UNIVERSITY.
- VIRGINIA: (V.P.I.) D. K. Smith, Ag. Economist: in planning stages for a computerized data retrieval system; of socioeconomic variables for teaching, research, and extension use and local planning and govt. personnel.
- WEST VIRGINIA: (W.V.U.) M. Templeton, Resource Management faculty: currently putting county level agricultural data on computer cards for access by tape; for use by college faculty, students, and other clientele.

CATEGORY III. Departments with reference/library operations:

- ARIZONA: (A.S.U.) G. Campbell, Ag. Economist; has departmental library, no permanent staff; at college level, have a "public Information System" accessible remotely with very general topics of a public relations nature.
- HAWAII: (U. of H.) G. R. Vieth, Agr. Economist: College of Tropical Agriculture has a information specialist to administer the CAIN machine-searchable data base, (bibliographic info. only); department only now becoming involved in system.
- IDAHO: (U. of I.) S. Nelson, Statistician, Dept. of Agr.Econ.: reference operation for state and national government publications; full time statistician for maintaining files, acquiring new material, doing statistical research and reference work; uses CRIS and SSIE programs for research users.
- KENTUCKY: (U. of K.) L. D. Jones, Extension Agr. Economist & reference room overseer: parttime secretary does filing and ordering duties; informal reference system for staff and student use.
- MAINE: (U. of M.) E. J. Micka, Ext. Economist: no system, uses university library for acquisition and storage of needed materials except some data series stored in central office locations, no staff assigned.
- MARYLAND: (U. of M.) R. J. Beiter, Specialist in Agr. and Resource Economics: maintain departmental reference library and publication files; staff of parttime undergrad student aids; hope to hire info and reference specialist.
- MASSACHUSETTS: (U. of M.) G. R. McDowell, Food and Resource Economist: departmental library/reference room with limited files of agr. pubs; two computer programmers in dept.; only limited data bases maintained as yet, but planning for expansion.
- MICHIGAN: (M.S.U.) P. Sondag, Librarian, Dept. Agr. Econ.: half-time librarian and clerk in dept. reference room; faculty and staff have a key access at all times; extensive non-automated files and recent govt' data series; part of university library system and uses standard library cataloguing.
- MISSOURI: (U. of M.-Columbia), N. Griffin, Agr. Econ. Reference staff: library-type operation; extensive files of govt; and institutional pubs; data series; etc. for use by dept. faculty, and all students, full-time staff person in charge of operation.
- MONTANA: (M.S.U.), A. J. McConnen, Chmn, Dept. Agr. Econ. and Economics: no plans for dept. level information system; development in process of a dept'l. "research library" for non-computerized storage and dissemination of socioeconomic information.
- NEW JERSEY: (Rutgers), A. R. Koch, Chmn. Dept. of Agr. Econ.: has dept'l. library with part-time staffing by sect'y; a college library accesses information systems; dept. has two project coordinators to utilize farm license applications to complement census data; have generated sub-county level socioeconomic data from this system.

(cont.d)

WYOMING: (U. of W.) A. Vanvig, Head, Div. of Agr. Econ. and R. Wright, Agr. Econ. staff; departmental library for A. E. Research use; part-time student staff; current agr. research and other data sources available.

CATEGORY IV; Departments with no structured information operations:

ALABAMA: (Auburn), J. H. Yeager, Head, AERS, department has no information system; uses CRIS in research work through the Experiment station.

ARKANSAS: (U. of A.) R. May, AERS faculty; no defined storage or retrieval system for socioeconomic information; individual responsibility for maintaining information nad data files.

GEORGIA: (U. of G.) J. W. Nixon, Agr. Economist; no formalized system or current projects but computerized information system has been discussed as needed for researchers in economics and sociology.

LOUISIANA:(LSU A & M) F. H. Wiegman, Head, dept. of Agr. Econ. and Agribusiness: no information system, much interest in information about setting up such a system.

MISSISSIPPI: (MSU) J. G. Hamill, Agr. Economist: no information system operations, interested in setting up such a system.

TEXAS: (Tex. A & M) D. E. Farris, Res. Leader, Dept. Agr. Econ.; no socioeconomic information system, specialists maintain their own files of basic secondary data; computerized farm enterprise analysis in use.

UTAH: (U.S.U) J. C. Anderson, Head, Dept. Economics; unstructured system of individual and group collections of data; express need for information system development.

Note: Persons having knowledge of activities not reported above are invited to correspond regarding same to the compiler of this report:

John T. Whinnery, Coordinator
SocioEconomic Information System Project
Ohio State University College of Agriculture
2120 Fyffe Road, Rm. 240
Columbus, Ohio, 43210